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BCCI READIES COMPENSATION PACKAGE, MATCH FEES HIKED

Board announces that cricketers who played in Covid-hit season will get 50% extra match fees during 2021-22 season

RANJI REMUNERATION UP, WOMEN'S TOO

Board brings three wage slab according to seniority (0-20 matches played, 21-40 and above 40) in Ranji Trophy matches. A senior player like Dinesh Karthik will now earn ₹60,000 per day. Earlier, it was ₹35,000, irrespective of experience for a raise of 41.6%. Senior women's domestic players too see a raise. It's gone up from ₹12,500 to ₹20,000, raising 37.5 per cent

INDIAN BOARD RATIFIES POSH POLICY

- The BCCI, who did not have a uniform policy to deal with sexual harassment so far, puts in place detailed document covering everybody from office-bearers to senior cricketers
- A four-member Internal Committee will be formed to investigate matters pertaining to sexual harassment complaints | P17

FOUR

4 TEAMS, NZ, SRI LANKA, WI & RSA, WILL TOUR INDIA BEFORE JULY '22

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

India to resume exporting Covid vax from October

UK decision to treat all double-vaxxed Indian fliers as unvaccinated triggers anger & worry

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA & DHINESH KALLUNGAL @ New Delhi/T'Puram

INDIA will resume exporting Covid-19 vaccines in October, Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Monday. The Centre had halted export of life-saving jabs when the devastating second wave of the pandemic struck the country in April.

The minister said "surplus supply" of vaccines will be shared with other countries under the Vaccine Maitri programme, adding that inoculating the Indian population remains the government's top priority.

The Centre is expecting a supply of 30 crore from different vaccine makers in October, which will go further up in later months.

The announcement about resumption of vaccine exports comes ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US this week to attend a meeting of the Quad countries, where vaccines are likely to be discussed.

Meanwhile, the UK government's updated Covid protocol mandating all travellers from India – including those who have taken both the vaccine doses – to undergo three Covid tests and go into quarantine for 10 days, has upset the plans of thousands of students getting ready to enroll in various British universities.

The new rules, which were unveiled on Friday, will become effective from October 4.

Indian travellers must take a Covid test three days before departure and undergo two more tests upon arrival in England. The passengers must also self-isolate in a pre-disclosed place for 10 days

JAB-O-METER
TAKE YOUR SHOT
Sep 19 37,78,296 doses
Sep 20 85,68,026 doses
TOTAL DOSES 81,73,95,763

NATION WIDE	SEP 19	SEP 20
Fresh cases	30,773	30,256
Recoveries	38,945	43,938
Deaths	309	295

KARNATAKA	SEPT 19	SEPT 20
Fresh cases	783	677
Recoveries	1,080	1,678
Deaths	14	24

Under the new policy, the UK will consider only those who have got both doses of Oxford-AstraZeneca, Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna or Janssen vaccines in the UK, Europe, US as fully vaccinated. Those vaccinated in Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Qatar, Singapore, South Korea and some other countries will also be considered as fully vaccinated.

Reacting sharply, former Union ministers Jairam Ramesh said it "smacks of racism". Congress MP and writer Shashi Tharoor said he has pulled out of a debate at The Cambridge Union debating society and from the launch events for the UK edition of his book *The Battle of Belonging*.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi greets new Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi after the oath taking ceremony, in Chandigarh on Monday | P11

PROMISES FREE WATER, POWER TARIFF CUT

Calling himself an *aam aadmi*, Channi claimed his government was of the poor, for the poor and with the poor. In an apparent attack on AAP, he said, "I am the *aam aadmi*, while other parties keep talking about *aam aadmi*." He recalled he had pedalled a rickshaw and his father ran a tent house. He promised free water supply to small dwellings, reduction in electricity tariff and transparent governance | P9

Channi, Sidhu to be faces for polls, says Cong amidst fresh firefighting

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

EVEN before new Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi could take his oath of office and secrecy, AICC's Punjab incharge Harish Rawat let the cat out of the bag, saying the forthcoming Assembly elections would be fought under the leadership of state unit president Navjot Singh Sidhu. In other words, Channi was only a stopgap chief minister, which undermined his office, taking the sheen off elevating a member of the SC community.

It triggered a furious backlash with former Punjab Congress President Sunil Jakhar leading the charge. Jakhar's name was in circulation for the CM's post till Sunday morning. He was later offered the deputy CM's post but he rejected it.

"On the swearing-in day of Sh @Charnjit_channi as Chief Minister, Mr Rawats's statement that "elections will be fought under Sidhu", is baffling. It's likely to undermine CM's authority but also negate the very 'raison d'être' of his selection for this position," Jakhar tweeted.

Opposition parties like the Shiromani Akali Dal, BJP and BSP pounced on the opportunity, saying Channi's appointment was indeed a Congress poll gimmick.

Congress national spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala had to step in to do damage control. "Our faces will be Charanjit Singh Channi and Navjot Singh Sidhu as also ordinary Congress workers and leaders who will be supporting them," he told reporters.

If Channi was a surprise choice for CM on Sunday, there was enough drama to identify his two deputies. Till the last moment, the name of Brahm Mohindra, a senior minister in the previous cabinet, was doing the rounds, but Sidhu penciled him out. Instead, Sidhu's loyalist O P Soni (64) was sworn in as deputy CM along with Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa (62). Mohindra's poor health and an earlier announcement of not contesting the elections apparently went against him.

Karnataka Govt tables Bill to protect illegal religious structures

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Basavaraj Bommai government that found itself on a sticky wicket over the demolition of temples is bringing in a law to protect illegally constructed religious structures, including temples in public places.

Bommai, on Monday, tabled the Karnataka Religious Structures (Protection) Bill, 2021, to protect religious structures constructed in public places, "in order to protect communal harmony and not to hurt the religious sentiments of the public".

The state government had come under heavy fire from all quarters, including ruling BJP leaders, right wing organisations and the opposition, after the demolition of Sri Adishakti Mahadevamma temple at Hucchagani village in Nanjangud taluk of Mysuru district on September 8. The government has introduced the Bill to mitigate further dent to its image.

OBJECTIVES & REASONS

- To protect religious structures in public places
- To protect communal harmony
- Not to hurt religious sentiments
- To restrict unauthorised structures and construction on public places in future

The Bill defines 'public place' as "a place belonging to the Government and includes any premises belonging to a Local Authority, a Government company, or a Board or Corporation or any statutory or non-statutory body of the State Government". Bringing temple, church, mosque, Gurdwara, Bodh Vihar, Majar, etc. constructed on a public place without authority of law under the ambit of religious structures, the government has specified that "no religious structure and construction shall be allowed by the State Government or any Local Authority in future on a public place". P4

EXPRESS READ

HC junks plea against leasing of M'luru airport

Bengaluru: Leasing out airports for better management is purely a policy decision of the Centre, the Karnataka High Court ruled on Monday, refusing to interfere with the former's decision to lease out the Mangaluru International Airport to Adani Enterprises. The HC added that AAI has followed a transparent process. P7

Biden to host Modi at White House on Sept 24

Washington: US President Joe Biden would host PM Narendra Modi for their first bilateral meeting at the White House on September 24 to further cement the relationship between the two countries. Vice President Kamala Harris will meet with the Prime Minister on September 23, the official said.

Look who's saying threats to Hinduism are imaginary

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

"THREATS to Hinduism" in the country are "imaginary", the Centre has said in response to a recent Right to Information (RTI) query. Dismissing claims of Hinduism being in danger, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) stated that it has no record or evidence concerning any so-called threats to Hindu religion.

Calling the alleged danger to Hinduism "hypothetical", the MHA said the Centre is neither aware of nor possesses any evidence to substantiate it.

The ministry was replying to an RTI application filed on August 31 by a Nagpur-based activist Mohnish Jabalpure who had sought proof of "threats to the 'Hindu religion' in the country" that the MHA had in its possession.

In his response, the MHA's CPIO (Internal Security) V S Rana said as per the RTI Act rules, the Public Information Officer can only provide information that is available with them, or which falls within their jurisdiction. Rana said it was not possible to satisfy the "hypothetical" query of Jabalpure, adding it was treated as null and void.

"This is the first time a key functionary of the MHA has said any query pertaining to 'threats to Hindu religion' is imaginary and admitted on record that they have been no records to support any such speculation...," Jabalpure reportedly said, after receiving the government's response.

ESPIONAGE RING

Raj merchant, suspected to be ISI agent, held in Bengaluru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN a joint operation by Military Intelligence (MI), Army's Southern Command and City Crime Branch, Bengaluru police, a 24-year-old garment merchant was arrested in the city on Sunday for allegedly spying for Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

Jitender Singh, a resident of Barmer, Rajasthan was arrested from Jolly Mohalla in Cottonpet under sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) Official Secrets Act (OSA).

According to sources, the police recovered some Army uniforms from his house. "Singh has allegedly shared some sensitive photographs and details of the Army posts near the international border to an ISI officer over WhatsApp messages, audio and video calls," said sources.

With inputs from the MI, three persons from Rajasthan including Singh have been arrested this month on charges of spying for the ISI. The earlier two arrests took place in Rajasthan in joint operations by the state police and MI, Southern Command. Sandeep Kumar (30), a gas agency owner in Jhunjhunu, was arrested on September 16 on charges of spying for Pakistan. Kumar used to provide gas connections in the Army area and had reportedly shared some sensitive information to his ISI handlers. P7

GREY SILHOUETTE

The Bengaluru skyline, captured from the Vidhana Soudha, veiled by a thick sheet of rain on Monday. The city received 44 mm of rain till 5.30 pm, after experiencing incessant showers over the last two days | KAGANAN GADEKAL | P2

Bribery scandal hits Amazon; senior exec sent on leave, internal probe on

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

AMAZON India has been hit by a bribery scandal after a whistle-blower complaint has led to an internal probe into the e-commerce giant's legal representatives, who allegedly bribed Indian government officials.

When contacted, Amazon officials refused to give specific details about the complaints. It also did not say if the legal representatives alleged to have been involved in the bribing controversy were employees of the e-commerce firm or belonged to a third-party law firm. Any complaints against corruption or wrong individual behaviour are always investigated deeply, an Amazon official told this newspaper.

In a statement, the company said it has zero tolerance for corruption. "We take allegations of improper actions seriously, investigate them fully, and take appropriate action," it said.

While Amazon did not divulge the name of the accused, media reports said the e-commerce major has sent its senior corporate counsel Rahul Sundaram on leave in connection with the matter.

Amazon has been facing many litigation and regulatory issues in the country. It has been litigating against Future Retail against its decision to sell its entire retail business to Reliance Retail.

The company has been also facing Enforcement Directorate and Competition Commission of India investigations for violating foreign direct investment and competition laws.

Meanwhile, the Confederation of All India Traders has demanded a CBI probe.

Mysuru's Meghan sets CET record, tops all 5 streams

KARTHIK KK & PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA @ Mysuru, Bengaluru

MEGHAN HK, a CBSE student of Pramati Hill View Academy in Mysuru, secured the top rank in all streams of CET – engineering, bachelor of naturopathy and yogic sciences (BNYS), agriculture, veterinary science and pharmacy.

This is the first time any student has topped all the streams, including engineering. "It is a record," said Higher Education Minister Dr CN Ashwatha Narayan.

Meghan told *The New Indian Express*, "I was hopeful of coming in top 10, but never thought I would come first. It was a two-and-a-half-year marathon. But proper planning and weekly goals helped me achieve this."

He owed his achievement to his parents, who both are educators and train students for the Common Entrance Test. "My parents were aware of what was best for me and had created a good learning environment at home. Though no fixed timings were followed, I studied up to 10 hours a day," he said.

CONTINUED ON: P2

BREAKFAST BLUES

Idli, dosa prices and roasting on floor of the House

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE fluffy soft idlis and crisp dosas of Hotel Janardhan became the hot topic of debate in the Assembly on Monday, with legislators squabbling about the prices – whether they were high, higher or bumped up due to fuel prices.

Hotel Janardhan on Race Course Road, one of the oldest hotels in Bengaluru known for its classic South Indian fare, is a favourite adda with politicians across party lines. Many bigwigs, including former chief ministers Siddaramaiah and BS Yediyurappa, are spotted here after red-letter days like election day or result day.

On Monday, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, taking the floor during a debate on the price rise, said that Opposition Leader Siddaramaiah's allegation that the price rise at the iconic hotel is because of the hike in fuel price is not true.

"I have got the details here. In 2017 and 2018, one plate of idli was ₹35 which was increased by ₹1 in 2019. In 2021, it is ₹38. It is hardly a one or two rupee increase, which is natural and has nothing to do with fuel price," he added.

Siddaramaiah had said that the prices of his favourite breakfast have gone up because of the increase in transportation cost of grains and other essential commodities, which in turn is due to the rise in fuel prices. "Even today, I visit Janardhan Hotel for idli and dosa," he said.

Congress leaders Siddaramaiah, Dinesh Gundu Rao and KC Venugopal eating at Hotel Janardhan in Bengaluru | FILE

"I am also fond of idli and dosa there," nodded Bommai.

The chief minister's reply riled Congress members, who said a person holding the chief minister's post cannot reply in such a manner. But unperturbed by the din, Bommai said, "I have even details of masala dosa and vada. But it looks like you don't want to listen. I am not interested in reeling out the prices of idli and dosa. But since the Leader of the Opposition insisted, I am giving my answer."

To this, Siddaramaiah said, "Why is the chief minister talking about rates of idli and dosa? Why is he not talking about the cement and iron prices, which are causing a hole in the common man's pocket?"